

APRIL 2024

CROSSTALK

Centenary United Methodist Church

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
John 13:34 (NIV)

Dear Church,

As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to love those within the walls of our church but also those who may find themselves confined to the walls of their own homes or assisted living facilities. These individuals, may not have the mobility they once did, but they remain cherished members of our church family. Today, we are called to reflect on the significance of caring for our shut-ins and to embrace this ministry with open hearts and willing spirits.

If you look at the bulletin boards across from the 206 Classroom, you'll see a new board. It has the words "Loving our Shut-Ins" across the top and below it lists various members who are shut-in. This ministry emerged from our Visioning Day back in November when various folk said they were interested in caring for our shut-ins and making sure they know they are loved.

As a church, we extend a warm invitation to each member to participate in this vital ministry of love and care. There are various ways in which you can show your support and compassion:

- **Prayer:** Lift our shut-ins up in prayer regularly. Pray for their health, comfort, and peace of mind. Let them know they are not forgotten, but held close in prayer.
- **Calls:** A simple phone call can brighten someone's day immensely. Take a few moments to connect with our shut-ins, inquire about their well-being, and offer words of encouragement and love.
- **Notes:** A handwritten note carries tremendous significance in today's digital age. Take the time to send a card or letter to our shut-ins, expressing your care and prayers.
- **Visits:** Some of our shut-ins may still be able to attend church occasionally, while others may rarely leave their homes. Whether individually or as part of a visiting team, make it a priority to spend time with them. Your presence can bring immeasurable joy and comfort.

Remember, caring for our shut-ins is not just the responsibility of a few, but the privilege of the entire church body. If you feel called to join a visiting team, please reach out to me. However, even if you visit independently, your efforts are deeply appreciated and valued.

Additionally, if you are aware of someone who should be added to our list, please inform the church office. Together, we can ensure that no member of our congregation feels overlooked or forgotten.

Let us heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, who commands us to love one another as He has loved us. May our acts of compassion and kindness shine brightly, illuminating the lives of others with the warmth of God's love.

Grace + peace, Pastor Trent

[Sunday Morning Services](#)

Coffee and doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall 9:00am
Sunday School at 9:30am
Worship at 10:30am

Join us online:

Facebook Live at

<https://www.facebook.com/centenaryshelbyville>

&

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFQ7gRUEwCTavSK9UvqiMaQ>



We keep everyone updated about our programs and events by email and Facebook. Please contact the church office with any questions or if you would like to be added to the email list.

Church office hours are Monday-Thursday on site
8:00am-2:00pm and Friday 8:00am-2:00pm
Remotely.

Assistance days and hours are Tuesday & Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm. Centenary offers financial
assistance for rent or utilities and food assistance.

STAFF

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Lay Leader: Renee Clark
Council Chair: Heather Hood
Chair of SPRC: Bill Tuttle
Chair of Ops Team: Tracy Bertram
Chair of Trustees: Jim Sharp
Chair of Finance: Jeff Gaither
Treasurer: Michael Watts
Children's Ministry Chair:
Amanda Ethington
Youth Ministry Chair: Nick Headley

****Notes from Ops Team & Church Council available upon request from the church office. You can call and request a copy emailed or mailed to you or come by during business hours.***



Deadline for the May 2024 Crosstalk
is Wednesday, April 17, 2024

April



3rd	Choir	6:00pm
7th	CYF	6:30pm
8th	Redwoods	10:00am
	Ops Team	6:30pm
10th	Lunch Bunch	11:30am
	Choir	6:00pm
14th	CYF	6:30pm
16th	Girl Scouts Informational meeting	6:00pm
17th	Deadline for May Crosstalk	
	Dinner Church	6:30pm
	Choir	7:45pm
21st	CYF	6:30pm
23rd-3rd	General Conference	
24th	Choir	6:00pm
28th	CYF	6:30pm



- 2 Pablo Chacon
- Joy Freeman
- 9 Danny Goodwin
- 13 Barbara Erway
- 18 Chuck Cicchella
- 19 Stephanie Crouch
- Thomas Gaither
- William(Whitie)Gray
- Samuel Tatum Lloyd
- 21 Barbara Scott
- 30 Ronald Worley

Lunch Bunch

"WE'RE OFF", on our first seasonal outing. The Lunch Bunch will be heading up the road to the Shelby Farms Assisted Living Facility... We have been invited to show-up on Wednesday, April 10th at 12:00 pm for a FREE lunch "you can't beat that" and a tour of the facility. They would like to know how many will attend, so please let Ms. Eleanor know by Monday the 8th if you are planning on attending.

Thank you,
Ms. Eleanor



Thank you Centenary for all the care you have offered and shown me through my surgery and recovery! I am so grateful for the Ramp Ministry and the transport services! You made it possible for me to get home from the hospital and to go to doctor appointments using that ramp so many of you assembled and by providing a wheelchair and the van! I so appreciate all the calls, cards, visits, meals, and PRAYERS! What tremendous blessings you are to me and to this community! Thank you! And God bless you!

Thank you,
Carol

An Invitation to A Different Kind of Group

Groups in the church can normally be categorized in three different ways: groups for learning; groups for fellowship; groups for transformation. All are important. But more often than not most groups are primarily designed for learning or fellowship. And though there may be elements of opportunities for transformation in these two kinds of groups, it is rare that a church will have a group whose primary purpose and focus is on transformation.

This will be the focus of a new kind of small group we will be launching at Centenary. On Sunday, April 28, following worship, there will be a brief information meeting about beginning what we are calling Growth Groups. We have asked Mark Gibbons to lead the first group that in some ways will be an experiment of what this could look like in the life of Centenary in an on-going way. At the April 28 meeting, information will be shared about what the first group will attempt to do and be. In coming to the meeting, you are not committing to participate in the first group. It is just an opportunity to hear and ask questions.

We anticipate that the first group will have 6-8 people and meet weekly for 8 weeks for no longer than 45 minutes. The group will have the opportunity to determine the day, time, place, and how the group will meet.

We invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity and come April 28 and learn more about it.



Growth Group

Led by Rev. Mark Gibbons

Are you ready to grow as a follower of Christ?

Information and organizational meeting
Sunday, April 28 after worship
Room 206

CYF Spring

3/31 - off for Easter

4/7- serve - food bags

4/14 - family worship

4/21 - fun - mega caverns zip lining

4/28 - study

5/5 - hold to see if folks are available
Derby weekend

5/12 - off for Mothers Day

TBA- pool party

Assistance Program

By Amanda Shirley

In February, Centenary received 6 requests for financial assistance. Of those requests, we were able to assist 4 of them, affecting 6 people, at a cost of \$741.40. In February and March, we typically see a slight drop in requests for assistance because taxes are coming in. Either people filed early and received their refund, or they did rapid refund. Those with the EIC or Child Tax Credit typically don't receive theirs until the end of February unless they receive a portion as a rapid refund. This is an option that I suggest to people during this time, particularly those requesting rental assistance. Unless someone lives in income-based housing and has extremely low rent, Centenary doesn't have the funds to cover a full month. Rental assistance is just that—assistance. We assist with a portion of the rent once the remaining amount is paid. When someone comes in requesting rental assistance, they must have photo ID, proof of income, a lease agreement with the landlord's contact information, so I can verify the amount past due. Once we have all the paperwork, completed application, and the amount past due is verified, a letter of intent is given. The letter states what the church can assist with once the applicant shows they have paid the remaining balance or has a written payment arrangement. The letter holds the funds for one week; after that, the funds are released. If we still have the funds available beyond that week, we will still assist for the amount originally stated.

For utility assistance, applicants need photo ID, proof of income, and a current disconnect notice. The utility must be in their name, or their name must be on the account. Once we have all the paperwork, Centenary will assist with paying the past due balance up to the current maximum amount we have set. The maximum amount does change as funds dictate so we can help as many people as possible. Centenary only assists with necessary utilities like water, gas, and electricity. Some bills do have a past due amount and the new current bill on them; we still only assist with the past due amount. For example, if someone comes in with a bill and it has \$50.00 past due, and the new current amount is \$50.00 for a total of \$100.00, and our maximum amount for assistance is \$125.00, we will only assist with the \$50.00 past due. We do not pay current bills or overpay to give a credit. The only exception to this is those with prepaid electric.

Financial assistance, regardless of amount or type (rental/utility), is available once in a 12-month time frame and not to the date. This means if someone was assisted on 2/5/24, they are not eligible again until March of 2025. Centenary will also give a referral to financial counseling on the second consecutive year. The applicant will not be eligible for further financial assistance again until they show proof they completed a course. I have had many say they don't remember receiving the referral so as of the middle of 2023, I have people sign stating they have received the referral information. I have not had anyone yet come back and show proof that they have completed a course. In January and February, we received 27 applications for financial assistance; of those, 11 were ineligible for various reasons, and 3 didn't have the required paperwork or didn't come back with needed paperwork. We were able to assist 13 of those 27 applicants.

Food assistance is not counted against anyone seeking financial assistance. So, even if we are no longer able to assist someone financially, they can still come in for food assistance every other week. All that is needed for food assistance is proof of Shelby County residency. In February, we handed out 115 bags of food, feeding 244 people in our community. Centenary received 2,793lbs of donated food from Dare to Care with an estimated total value of \$4,385.00. Centenary spent \$117.79 on food and supplies for the food assistance program. Again, typically numbers in February and March are normally down. Overall, for the year so far, we are down by 26 bags compared to last year. The assistance program is open to all Shelby County residents. None of this would have been possible without the support of our congregation. You all donate funds, food, and several groups donate their time assembling food bags. So, a huge thank you to you all.

Serve

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ANOTHER
COMMUNITY
FREEDOM
JESUS
PERSON
TOGETHER

BLESSED
FAMILY
GLADNESS
LOVE
RANSOM

BOLDNESS
FOLLOW
HEART
MOTION
RELEASE

CAPTIVITY
FREE
HOME
PAID
SERVE

Children's Ministry

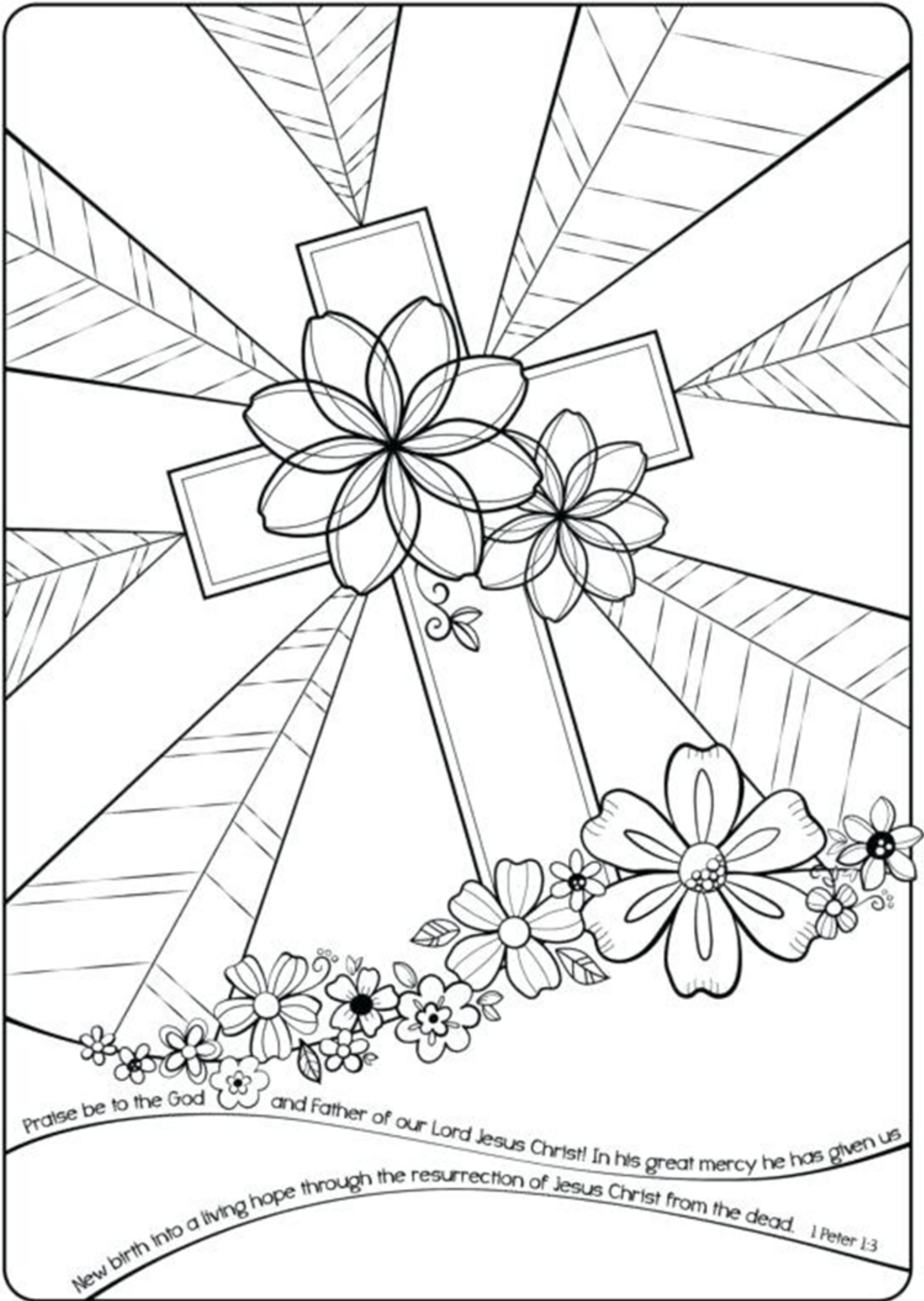


We are so glad to be back together in-person with all our friends. Even though our Sunday School lesson looks slightly different, we are so happy that we are helping young minds grow in their faith. We also want to thank those that are helping to create our Children's Moment videos that are shared on Sunday Mornings. If you missed them, go check out our Shelbyville Centenary Kids Facebook page.

Starting this month, we will be starting up another eight-week course. "Interstate For One Another" will help children understand the importance of "Traveling Through Life" with one another. Through a fun and educating way, this series will encourage children to build relationships with each other. It will also help them understand that God created each of us to love and interact with other people. They will further see the importance of relying on each other to grow in their spiritual lives through the lessons: Traveling Together, Better Together, Reaching Out Together, Belonging Together, Growing Together, Serving Together, Worshipping Together and Celebrating Together. You can access these lessons on the Shelbyville Centenary Kids Facebook page or on the Centenary United Methodist Church website. These are fun short videos that strives in teaching children not only a bible lesson. If you have any issues accessing the videos, please let Reesa Headley know and we will make sure you child can receive the lesson.



LOOKING TO JOIN US! We would love to have you apart of our team. Our children's ministry is looking for more teachers to help our kids grow in their faith. We teach kids from pre-school up to fifth grade. We are also looking for volunteers to help monitor the Children's Sunday School class. If you think that either of these might be a great opportunity for you, please reach out to Reesa Headley for more information.



Praise be to the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us
New birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

Volleyball Season has finished...

Once again this year we have sponsored two teams in the parks league this winter. Games began in January and concluded with the tournament on Tuesday, March 19th. As we have said every season...outreach, fellowship, fun, sportsmanship, and NO INJURIES were our goals. We don't count bruises from the ball, but several players added kneepads to their uniform so they could continue diving for the ball. A couple of jammed thumbs but no broken bones so I think we'll keep our "No Injuries" status.

Both Centenary teams used the TEAM EAGLE name from years ago. For those of you who don't remember the acronym, this stood for "Together with Energy and Attitude on a Mission to Engage, Accept, and Glorify the Lord Everywhere".

Our first team included two church members and several returning and new members from the community. Amy Waggener and Amanda Shirley were again on the team. Returning from previous seasons were Tiffani Tingle, Stone Smith, and Anna Marie Nutt. Joining them this season were Jason, Miguel, and Alonzo. This team had a lot of fun and was much improved this season. Work and family conflicts had Amy and Amanda missing the tournament (and picture, below left).



Our second team was a blend of church members and friends/family. Nick Headley, Gary and Jill Baker, and I were again on the team. Returning from previous seasons were my sister, brother-in-law, niece, and nephew. We made it to the semi-final match of the tournament and had a lot of fun during the season. Work schedules had Jill Baker and my nephew missing the tournament (and picture, above right).

Once again, we appreciated our fan base. David and Louise Pratt were in the stands most weeks. Other family members came out to watch throughout the season as well.

Submitted by Trisha Hobbs



The Redwoods Group



Our Centenary Redwoods Group was born out of one of the 40 Days of Purpose small groups many years ago, and is still going strong in 2024. We meet on the second Monday of each month. We have a devotional brought by one of our members, share prayer requests and praise reports, send cards to a few people God places on our hearts, sometimes enjoy snacks, celebrate birthdays, have a few laughs, participate in a service project, and enjoy a great time of fellowship. If you are looking for a small group, we would welcome you to join us for our next meeting...we think you will enjoy your morning with us.

For our March meeting, Bonnie Burks Gray shared our devotion. Following all of the business discussion, Lynda Tharp sent us off for our projects. A small group sent out our cards for the month, another group added more color to the poster in the children's hallway, and the third group packed the bags for the assistance program.



Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 8, 2024. If you have considered joining us in the past, perhaps our April meeting will be the perfect opportunity for you. Rena will be up in our rotation for kicking off the meeting, and Renee Clark has volunteered to provide our devotional that morning. Our group of ladies is always ready to welcome new members, so please consider joining us as we will be touring the library.

Submitted By,
Trisha Hobbs



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